

# The Sun

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LOCAL NEWS.—The City and Suburban News Bureau of the SUN, 100 N. 5th St., New York, N. Y., is the only news bureau in the city that has a full and complete staff of reporters for the purpose of public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

## Wait Not Till Too Late!

"Wait!" is the word of the enemies of free Cuba in this country. During the months in which the Cuban question was under debate in Congress, it was dinned into the ears of the Senate and the House. Wait! It is the burden of the advice which is now pressed upon Mr. CLEVELAND. It is used in the way of remonstrance, warning, and foolery. It is a favorite word in Spain.

The Government is asked to wait for "more information" than it has been able to procure in a twelvemonth. Wait until the opportunity for rendering a service is lost, until we can neither check Spain nor encourage Cuba. Wait for the opening of the rainy season, and for the end of it, and for the period afterward. Wait for WEYLER, and then for his successor. Wait till Spain gives up the fight, or till the Cubans are crushed. Wait till the reinforcements arrive from Spain. Wait till the Spanish decrees are fully carried out and the butcheries are ended in the extermination of the patriots. Wait till the muffled shrieks of freedom are heard no more from Cuba. Wait till GOMEZ is in Havana or WEYLER in Cabaigas. Wait till Cuba is ruined.

But is it not time for the voice of America to be heard? Have we not already waited long enough?

## Could Spain Get Allies?

Cable despatches say that already the drain of able-bodied men from the armies of Spain is felt unobscured in the tilling of her fields. If this be a premature or exaggerated complaint, it is yet obvious that the cost of the Cuban war in men and money, with the cutting down of her income from the island, will force the kingdom sooner or later to cast about for means to prolong the struggle.

Already, from time to time, we hear rumors of her calling on other countries to help her with her difficult task. France has been spoken of as such a possible ally, and even the price to be paid, perhaps in agreements relating to the Morocco coast, has been conjectured.

Such alleged negotiating we may perhaps take as a groundless surmise, at least for the time. But even should Spain be driven to straits so humiliating, it is not likely that she would find anybody to help her.

An attempt to crush the patriot cause in Cuba by a European coalition would be regarded in our country as a movement hostile to the United States. On that point we need only to cite the words of Secretary MARCY, written to Minister BUCHANAN on July 2, 1883:

"While the United States would resist at every hazard the interference of Cuba to any European nation, they would exceedingly regret to see Spain resorting to any power for assistance to hold her rule over it. Such a dependence on foreign aid would in effect invest the auxiliary with the character of a protector, and give it a pretext to interfere in our affairs, and also generally in those of the North American continent."

We do not think that any European power would risk embroiling itself with the United States for the sake of helping Spain out of her trouble. Months ago an influential Spanish newspaper urged that the nations on that side of the ocean had a common interest in the downfall of the rebellion in Cuba, but there was no eager rush to support the cause of Spain. In fighting Cuba she can count on no such help.

## What Belligerent Rights Would Mean to Cuba.

Some of Cuba's champions in the Senate, including conspicuously Senator TURPIE and Senator CALL, seem to think that the concurrent resolutions, just passed, do not go far enough. They would like Congress to recognize the Cuban republic, not only as a belligerent, but as an independent State, and then to interfere by force on its behalf. We have no doubt that the independence of Cuba ultimately will be acknowledged and achieved, but meanwhile we have reason to believe that the representatives of the revolutionists will be satisfied if one step be taken at a time. Perhaps they are more keenly alive than are some of their American friends to the advantages which a recognized status of belligerency will involve. Let us glance at some of them.

We observe, in the first place, that the moment the Cubans are acknowledged as belligerents the whole character of the warfare waged against them by the Spaniards will have to be changed. Not an hour longer could the latter pursue their programme of extermination without provoking an outcry of horror from the civilized world. At present the revolutionists are dealt with as pirates if captured at sea, and as brigands if made prisoners on land. Once proclaimed belligerents, they would become entitled to the humane and merciful treatment prescribed by modern usage for prisoners of war. If not exchanged, they would have a right to decent lodging and proper food, and, when sick or wounded, to medical or surgical attendance. If this were the only gain accruing from the status of belligerency, it would be of immense value to the Cubans, who at present are hunted like wild animals; and it would be of benefit to the Spanish themselves, who are degraded by Weyler's savagery. It would be better for both sides if the war in Cuba were conducted in a civilized way.

For aggressive purposes also the acquisition of belligerent rights would be useful to the revolutionists. For instance, they would obtain forthwith the power of borrowing money through an issue of bonds, a power which was exercised by the thirteen American colonies during our war for independence, and again by the Confederate States during the war of the rebellion. With such pecuniary resources, they would be able to secure the arms and ammunition of which they stand in urgent need, and without which they can seldom venture to fight a pitched battle on a considerable scale. All that is needed to enable the revolutionists to take and hold large towns is the possession of artillery which the floating of a Cuban loan would give them. In a word, the concession of belligerency means the bestowal of the sinews of war.

On sea, as well as on land, the Cubans will become dangerous antagonists, as soon as they get belligerent rights. They will acquire the power to issue letters of marque, and it will be easy to find vessels willing to hoist the Cuban flag and to act as privateers. How much might be accomplished by a single vessel of the kind has been set forth in a striking and timely brochure, entitled "The Captured Cudgeler," by Mr. W. H. RIDEING. This lit-

tle book recounts the fortunes of a tramp steamer, the Rosario, which had been chartered to convey the armament of an Argentine cruiser to Buenos Ayres. A band of Irish revolutionists, having gained possession of this vessel, lay in wait for one of the Cunard ocean greyhounds, the Granmanila, fired a shot across her bows, captured her, and transferred to her the cruiser's armament. Then the Cudgeler, her own crew and passengers having been set adrift in the tramp steamer, proceeded to cruise northward and southward over the eastward and westward transatlantic tracks, with a certainty of intercepting most of the great ships which would start from both sides before the news of the Granmanila's capture could reach them. The result of the cruise, as worked out by Mr. RIDEING, was that the Granmanila, before she was taken by an American war vessel, had destroyed six great steamships, worth in the aggregate about \$8,000,000, exclusive of the value of their cargoes.

The applicability of the "Captured Cudgeler's" experience to the Cuban situation is obvious. The continuance of the attempt to suppress the revolution requires the maintenance of incessant communication between Spain and the island for the purpose of supplying reinforcements and military stores. Of the passenger steamers chartered with this end in view by the Madrid Government some are of notable size and speed. The seizure of one of these by a Cuban privateer in the way suggested by Mr. RIDEING, if rigorously turned to account, might interrupt for a certain period the transportation of stores to the island, and, at all events, would cripple seriously Spain's maritime resources and provide the revolutionists with a great quantity of munitions of war. Such an employment of privateers to break or embarrass an enemy's communications with his base of supplies would constitute an important addition to their general utility in the rôle of commerce destroyers.

We assure Senator TURPIE that the official representatives of the Cuban revolutionists know very well what they are about when for the moment they confine themselves to a request for the bestowal of belligerent rights.

## Retaliation.

We do not attach much importance to this statement in a Havana letter to which we have given place:

"The insurgents now will retaliate on the prominent Conservatives who have been advocating that all the Cuban sympathizers be shot. The retrogrades or Conservatives who are sought outside of the city of Havana will be hanged. These retrogrades are the cause of the reign of terror that now exists in the interior, and the insurgents know it. The retrogrades insisted on the appointment of WEYLER when MARTINEZ CAMERO was removed, and have urged him to be more rigorous. This retaliation does not apply to the Spaniards who do not interfere in the war."

The chief reason why we disregard the statement is that it runs contrary to the policy which Cuba adopted at the opening of the war, and has steadily maintained all along. Retaliation upon Spain for deeds perpetrated in violation of the rules of war is prohibited by the authorities of the Cuban Government and by the military leaders of the revolution. We recently quoted the words of the President of the republic upon the subject, and we have given the exact language of General-in-Chief GOMEZ in regard to it. GOMEZ has given orders against retaliation, in terms plain and direct, and we may say that his orders are very sure to be obeyed by the troops under his command. The discipline of the revolutionary army, as we have often had occasion to know, is rigid, and the penalties for the non-observance of it are mercilessly administered. We have had accounts of the execution of insurgent soldiers who had been guilty of misdeeds, even of the maltreatment of enemies who had fallen into their hands. Spanish prisoners taken in battle are protected so long as they may be held, and are sent back within the Spanish lines after they have been disarmed. Most stern have been the great military leaders' orders to his forces against the commission of acts in retaliation for wrongs suffered at the hands of the enemy.

It is possible that the statement we have quoted from the Havana letter may apply to non-combatants who have been, or whose families have been, outraged by Spanish troops, under WEYLER's decrees. We could not wonder if revenge should be taken by these men.

There must at times be an almost irresistible impulse to retaliate upon Spain, even among the disciplined soldiers of Cuba. These soldiers know of the Spanish atrocities, know that their comrades taken in battle are butchered, that their wives or children are killed in cold blood, that the hospitals containing their wounded are destroyed, and that sympathizers with them receive no mercy. One would think that it must be hard for their officers to restrain them when Spanish prisoners are in their hands as the crash of rifles turned upon Cuban prisoners in Spanish hands is heard. We must think it is only by the highest discipline that they are restrained.

We do not doubt that the Cuban troops will continue to refrain from deeds like those which have blackened the name of Spain in Cuba. It may be expected, however, that the malignant prompters of these deeds who come within reach of the vengeance of the victims of the deeds will suffer by that vengeance.

## A Disappointment for the Golden State and the Empire City.

We had news from San Francisco some time ago that an organized body of the business men there had got up a plan for the holding of a gigantic California Exposition in the city of New York, in the month of May this year, under the auspices of the San Francisco Board of Trade. Prophecies of the grandeur of the affair were printed by our California contemporaries. The Golden State was to be made known to the Eastern people. We heard of the spectacle that we were to behold here, in Madison Square Garden. We were to see California's finest products and wares, her edibles and potables, fruits and flowers, orange and palm trees, yellow and white bull, flumes and wine presses, log cabins and adobe houses; we were to see models of her mines, mining camps, ranches, and vineyards, besides natural vapors, Modocs, Vigilantes, and dance-dancers, and Forty-niners. We were to be allowed to gaze upon a provocative cascade of California claret, thirty-five feet high and twenty-five broad, rolling over crystal walls under electric lights. It was to be a combination of wonderland and practical business.

As general manager Mr. WALTER H. WICKES, an enterprising Californian, was chosen; and there also was a secretary, a treasurer, and other business officers.

We were pleased with the idea. We offered a welcome to the Exposition as soon

as we heard of it. We spoke for the Empire City when we said that New York would blow the trumpet in honor of California. The month of May is a pleasant one in this part of the country, and we were sure that California would enjoy herself in our festive town, as New York would enjoy the sights of California in Madison Square Garden.

We are grieved by news from San Francisco that the Exposition is to be deferred, has been postponed till some other time of the year not yet fixed. After all arrangements for the affair had been made in California, the San Francisco Board of Trade refused to come to time. It was an unexpected setback. The officers of the Board entertained a design different from that of the managers of the Exposition, and the two parties could not be brought to an agreement. This was one cause of the postponement. Another cause of it, we regret to learn, was the lack of the desired cooperation on the part of New York.

Not a word of welcome was heard in California from Governor MORTON or the Legislature, from Mayor STRONG or the Board of Aldermen, from our Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade; not a word, though the Governor of California had said he would come here with the Exposition. Discouraging letters were sent from this city to San Francisco, several of the papers of which place struck out against the Exposition.

New York is blameworthy in the case. It is just like New York. We miss some of our best chances because of the negligence of our rulers, and the dullness of our organized commercial bodies.

We can but hope that we may see California in New York next autumn.

## The Situation at Ottawa.

It is announced in an official newspaper, published at Toronto, that the Dominion Government is about to withdraw the so-called remedial bill by which separate Catholic schools were to be established in Manitoba against the will of the people of that province. How is this manoeuvre likely to affect the prospects of the Conservatives at the coming general election?

The motive which impels the leaders of the Conservative party to take this step is obvious. They hope to kill two birds with one stone. Had they passed the remedial bill, which, notwithstanding its defects, has been advocated by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, they would probably have retained their hold upon the province of Quebec, but they would certainly have lost Ontario. By withdrawing the bill at the last moment on the plea that it meets with insuperable obstruction, they expect to convince their former supporters in Ontario that there was never any real intention of carrying the measure. At the same time, the Bishops and priests in Quebec will be assured that but for the opposition of the Liberals, the bill would have become a law. Thus to carry water on both shoulders is a difficult operation, and the successors of Sir JOHN MACDONALD may find that they have overreached themselves. The differences of opinion existing by the school question are not susceptible of repression or of compromise, and probably the only effect of the evasive move contemplated by the Dominion Government will be to defer a Ministerial crisis until after the opening of the next Parliament. The chances are that in the general election now near at hand the candidates backed by the Bishops and priests in Quebec will be forced to promise an immediate renewal of the demand for separate schools, while the members of Parliament returned by the overwhelming Protestant majority in Ontario will have to pledge themselves to resist the coercion by the Dominion Government of their co-religionists in Manitoba.

The election will turn upon this question, and it will be useless for the Conservatives to try to divert the minds of the electors to an Imperial Federation scheme, even though this should be rendered tempting by suggestion that Canadian food staples might obtain a preference in British markets over those of the United States. The Liberals will find it easy to convince the constituents that the British Parliament will never tax the grain imported into Great Britain from the great American republic in order to benefit Canadian producers. As regards this point, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN occupies precisely the same position which was taken by Lord RIBTON, his predecessor in the Colonial Office. No proposal looking to an increase of the price of breadstuffs in England could pass the House of Commons notwithstanding the great majority now possessed by the "Unionists" in that body, for every clear-sighted British politician knows that the support of such a measure would be fatal to his party and to himself.

We find it hard to credit the report which, according to our correspondent, is current at Toronto, that the Canadian Pacific Railway hopes, before the present Ottawa Parliament expires, to secure the passage of a measure authorizing the Dominion Government to buy back from the railway 12,000,000 acres of its land grant in the Northwest at \$2 per acre. We can understand why such a transaction should commend itself to the Canadian Pacific Railway, for if Senator ELKINS shall succeed in depriving this foreign and hostile corporation of the bonding privileges which enable it to underbid American competitors, it will find itself in a bad way. But to saddle the people of Canada with an additional debt of \$24,000,000 is not a sagacious mode of beginning a campaign.

Not only in the approaching general election, but as long as the Canadian confederation exists, the school question will be the pivot on which Dominion politics will turn. Undoubtedly the Catholics of Manitoba have a right to separate schools under the British North America act and under the Manitoba act, as these organic laws have been construed by the highest judicial authority. It is equally certain that the Protestants of that province will not concede to their Catholic fellow citizens the educational rights which they have been adjudged to possess. There is no solution of the question except a dissolution of the Dominion.

## The Democratic State Convention.

The Democratic State Committee will meet in May to fix the time and place for holding the State Convention at which will be chosen delegates at large and alternates to attend the Chicago National Convention of July 7.

The meeting of the State Committee will be harmonious. Three successive defeats sustained by the Democracy in New York since March 4, 1893, have appeased even the most obstreperous. The twittering of the cuckoo Democrats and the boisterous outcries of the stalwart contestants have been lulled into one grand sweet song.

But although the deliberations of the Democratic State Committee next month are likely to be peaceable, a radical difference of opinion on a question of political expediency separates the leaders into two groups. There will be an informal meeting of Democratic leaders in town to-day to bring about, if possible, a mutually satisfactory understanding. Some of these Democrats are for postponing until the latter part of June the holding of the Democratic State Convention, in order that it may follow the adjournment of the Republican National Convention in St. Louis, and deal, therefore, with national questions as defined by the Republicans. The holding of a Democratic State Convention at so late a day would leave in abeyance the enunciation of State or local issues, and enable the Democrats of New York to take full advantage of any errors or difficulties which may attend the determinations of the Republicans in St. Louis.

This policy in St. Louis, the support generally of the up-State Democrats, and likewise those of Brooklyn. It has the favor of the rural Democrats, and it is in accord with the policy of the party in New York on previous occasions, when the outlook was not favorable to its success.

On the other hand, the Democrats of the city of New York, reinforced to some extent by the Democrats of other large cities, Brooklyn excepted, are opposed to the policy of delay. They favor an early convention in advance of the meeting of the Republicans in St. Louis and before the Republicans shall have made up their Presidential ticket and adopted their platform. These New York Democrats are for beginning the fight at once, for starting the cannoning with one another, and for exacting delay. It is the belief of their leaders, and it is the belief of the Raines liquor tax law, the forces of the great and glorious Democracy can be successfully consolidated, and that nothing, in a political sense, is to be gained by waiting for the action of the Republicans in St. Louis, where the consideration of national issues are confined to any of the States.

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